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Security Council

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Letter dated 11 September 2000 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt, the Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and Cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mauritania, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Morocco, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia addressed to the President of the Security Council

Under Security Council resolution 1192 (1998), a solution to the Lockerbie issue was reached by which the two accused would be tried by a Scottish court sitting in the Netherlands and the sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would be suspended immediately on their appearance before the court. The sanctions were then to have been lifted, in accordance with paragraph 16 of Security Council resolution 883 (1993) and paragraph 8 of resolution 1192 (1998), on submission of a report by the Secretary-General within 90 days of their suspension.

The League of Arab States, which, together with the Organization of African Unity, played a major part in the solution that was reached, deeply regrets the fact that the Security Council failed to adopt a resolution lifting the sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya when the report of the Secretary-General finding that Libya had discharged all of its obligations (S/1999/726) was issued.

Despite the fact that it has been 18 months since the appearance of the two accused before the Scottish court in the Netherlands and 15 months since the time stipulated for the lifting of the sanctions in paragraph 16 of resolution 883 (1993), as well as 15 months or so since the court began its work, and despite Libya's full cooperation with the court, the Security Council has not yet managed to lift the sanctions.

The deepening suspicions of the Libyans are justified and it is understandable that their patience is becoming exhausted. The circumstances are such as to justify the positions they are adopting, and the League is entitled to express its deep concern at the situation.

As it commends the cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya with the Scottish court in the Netherlands, as demonstrated in document S/1999/1183, and as it transmits to you the text of League Council resolution 6014 of 4 September 2000, the Committee of Seven established by the Council of the League of Arab States to

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monitor the Lockerbie issue calls upon the Security Council to lift the sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya immediately and definitively.

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdelaziz **Belkhadem**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

(*Signed*) Amre **Moussa**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Arab Republic of Egypt

(*Signed*) Abdurrahman Mohamad **Shalghem**
Secretary of the General People's Committee
for Foreign Liaison and Cooperation
of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

(*Signed*) Ahmed **Ould Sid Ahmed**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

(*Signed*) Mohamad **Benaïssa**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Kingdom of Morocco

(*Signed*) Farouk **Al-Shara'**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Syrian Arab Republic

(*Signed*) Habib **Ben Yahia**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Tunisia

Annex to the letter dated 11 September 2000 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt, the Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and Cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mauritania, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Morocco, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia addressed to the President of the Security Council

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Resolution 114/6014, adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States on 4 September 2000

Coercive measures and threats by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya because of the dispute concerning the so-called Lockerbie affair

The Council of the League of Arab States,

Having considered:

The note by the Secretary-General,

And the recommendation of the Political Committee,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the subject,

Recalling the relevant communiqués issued by the conferences of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries,

Recalling the relevant decision adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-sixth ordinary session, held at Lomé, Togo, from 10 to 12 July 2000,

Welcoming the flexible position taken by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the positive initiatives it has advanced with a view to resolving the dispute in a peaceful manner,

Appreciating the fact that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya encouraged the two accused, its nationals, to appear before a Scottish court in the Netherlands, and commending the two for their compliance,

Expressing its gratitude to the Committee of Seven of the League of Arab States and the Committee of Five of the Organization of African Unity for their endeavours to seek a just settlement to the dispute,

Taking note of the appointment of a legal expert representing the League of Arab States as a member of the team of international observers monitoring the conduct of the trial of the two accused Libyans before the Scottish court,

Recalling once again the enormity and extent of the damage done to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the sanctions maintained against it for a period of more than seven years and their adverse impact on the economies of neighbouring States,

Affirming that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has fully satisfied all the requirements of Security Council resolutions 731 (1992), 748 (1992), 883 (1993) and 1192 (1998),

Expressing its satisfaction at the restoration of diplomatic relations between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the United Kingdom, and regarding this positive development as concrete evidence that dialogue and mutual understanding are the best way to solve problems,

Taking note of the decision of the Council of the European Union adopted at its meeting held in Brussels on 13 September 1999 to lift the embargo measures imposed on Libya, with the exception of the arms embargo, and noting further the statement made by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 4 November 1999 conveying the gratification of the British Government at the arrangements made by the Libyan judicial authorities for the visit of a Scottish police team to conduct inquiries relating to the Lockerbie affair,

Reiterating its deep regret that the Security Council has not thus far adopted a resolution lifting the sanctions against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya completely and definitively, despite having received the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations conveying the information that Libya has fully satisfied the requirements of all the Security Council resolutions indicated,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Pact of the League of Arab States,

Decides

1. To affirm its solidarity with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in seeking a fair and impartial trial for the two accused Libyan nationals and respect for all their legal and human rights during and after the proceedings;

2. To reaffirm its categorical rejection of the ongoing policy of insistence on preventing the sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya from being lifted and on ignoring the provisions of paragraph 16 of Security Council resolution 883 (1993) and the tenor of the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on this matter, an attitude that is in violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the resolutions of the Security Council and undermines the climate of trust and good faith that has led to a solution acceptable to all parties;

3. To call upon the Security Council to lift the sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya immediately and definitively on the grounds that the country has satisfied all the requirements of the relevant resolutions of the Council, including its resolution 1192 (1998), and to urge the Secretary-General of the League to pursue his endeavours with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council with a view to the adoption of the necessary measures for that purpose;

4. To call upon the members of the League of Arab States to rescind the sanctions as soon as possible in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of League Council resolution 111/5848 of 18 March 1999 and paragraph 4 of its resolution 112/5894 of 13 September 1999;

5. To urge the United States of America to engage in a direct and equal dialogue with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in order to discuss and resolve whatever

factors may be preventing a normalization of their bilateral relations and to allow the Lockerbie affair to take the legal and judicial course that is required by the nature of the dispute and has been agreed by all parties;

6. To support the legitimate right of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to receive just compensation for the damage done to it in physical and human terms by the sanctions that were imposed on it;

7. To request the Committee of Seven of the League of Arab States to continue its efforts until such time as the dispute is settled and to hold a meeting on the matter during the fifty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York;

8. To retain the present item in its agenda until such time as the dossier on the dispute can finally be closed;

9. To request the Secretary-General of the League to monitor the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the Council at its one hundred and fifteenth session.